



The Open Door Newsletter

March 2012

Time and Location of Services: Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland College Campus. Both services this month are on the 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center.

Fellowship Service – March 4th – 10 am

Speaker: David Saetre “Sin and Redemption”

For those who have been following David Saetre’s series on classical themes reconsidered, here’s the one you have been waiting for (or maybe not). “Sin and Redemption” is the title for the talk on March 4.

“Sin” is a four-letter word for the theologically sensitive. And, for good reason. The word signifies for many just what went wrong with the basic concepts in traditional Christianity. “Sin” evokes the judgmental, self-righteous tendencies in religion, conjuring up dour pictures of joyless people in the misery of their own faith. The great philosopher and theologian Paul Tillich wondered if we shouldn’t just get rid of the word. “There are few words more strange to us than *sin*,” wrote Tillich. He said the word is strange because it is so well-known and has “received distorting connotations and lost so much of its genuine power” over the centuries.

But, even words like *sin* and *redemption* convey ideas that may be worth reconsidering. Is it possible to talk about our existential experience of brokenness and alienation, without falling into the abyss of judgmental moralism? Is that what *sin* really signifies? Is it possible to imagine life’s surprising capacity for renewal and hope, *redemption*, without appealing to supernatural causes? The words *sin* and *redemption* lead us down into those depths of our human experience as few other words can. At least that’s what we’ll explore March 4.

David W. Saetre

College Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion, Northland College

“The world is deep, and deeper than the day could read. Deep is its woe. Joy deeper still than grief can be.” Nietzsche

“The opposite of faith is certainty, not doubt.” David

Fellowship Service – March 18th – 10 am

Speaker: Alicia Juskewycz “Religion in American Political Life”

Alicia Juskewycz, visiting professor of sociology at Northland College, will speak to us about the role religion plays in America’s political life. Professor Juskewycz has been studying with renowned sociologist Robert Wuthnow, author of *American Mythos*, examining the role of religious ideology in public and community life. We look forward to her timely talk the third Sunday in March.

Upcoming Service Dates:

April 8 David Saetre
April 22 ANNUAL MEETING/Potluck luncheon
May 6 All Music
May 20 Flower and Child Dedication ceremonies

Greeters are needed for the April 22nd, May 6th and May 20th services. If you can help in this capacity please contact Patty Dufek, pport57@charter.net, 715-682-9015 / 715-292-1676

Send In The Songs

CUUF is all about diversity, including in music. The CUUF Music Committee would like to gather songs for an eclectic supplement to the hymnal. The hymnal is a great resource for congregational singing, but often the songs in the service are from other sources. If you have a favorite folk, gospel, rock, round, standard, or whatever genre song with UU-friendly threads running through it, send it along. The songs will be gathered, copied and filed for easy access when song selections are made. Don't be shy. Shout out your favorites to: jonibchapman@yahoo.com

GENTLE ETERNITY

George Einar Bussey

To the left of Cassiopeia
To the right of Orion
Smallest angel, never lost
ever present

Gentle eternity, awareness, love and family, unbroken.

Some physical link we yearn,
while all the time
those we love are ever present.
Some spiritual link we yearn,
while for all time
Our love is our bridge.



From my experience of The Book Across The Bay...

This poem came to mind half way across the ice of Chequamegon Bay as we gazed back at the lights of Ashland and above to the starry skies. The Pleiades is a family of seven stars, sisters they say. Can't quite see the seventh with the naked eye, but you know she's there. (Photo provided by Book Across the Bay.)
Einar

Annual CUUF Picnic

I am already in the planning stage for our CUUF picnic – the date is tentatively set for June 10th. This year my focus is going to be MUSIC-SWEET-MUSIC ! When I was a child, at family gatherings there was always an accordion, a guitar, and other instruments (including a washtub drum) playing, with singing and dancing as well. We were poor but VERY HAPPY. Later, when my children were small, our circle of friends would gather for fellowship in the woods in Ogema, Wisconsin – again, out came the fiddles, guitars and harmonicas.

Our CUU Fellowship has become my circle of friends and family. It's only fitting that music will follow. This is a heartfelt invitation to all those among us who play musical instruments to please bring your instrument of choice to our annual picnic. Please share the gift of your tunes. Those of you who know me well know that I am always open to suggestions – give me a call to share your idea.

Patty Dufek - CUUF Hospitality
pport57@charter.net, 715-682-9015 / 715-292-1676

Caring Corner

Congratulations to The Hofstedt Family and their new addition, Alma Violet Hofstedt, born Sunday February 26th. Mom, baby, and family are all doing well.

If you know of people in need of our thoughts and prayers or people who have specific needs please contact Jacki Rae-Ledin at 373-0347 or antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com. If you are interested in serving on the caring committee, please contact Jacki.

Pathway to Membership

We welcome you to become a member of the Chequamegon UU Fellowship. A member is anyone 16 years old or older who wishes to covenant to affirm and promote the UU principles of faith (below) and signs our Fellowship Membership book:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our fellowship.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the democratic process within our fellowship and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.



Being a part of a liberal faith community and its many programs, which inspire awareness, is one of the many benefits of membership. The expectations of membership are that you will participate in the fellowship at whatever level you can or wish and that you will make an annual pledge of financial support at whatever level you can or want.

Anyone interested in membership, will be given a copy of *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, available on the book table during service Sundays.

New Member Welcome Sunday, March 4th, at CUUF service. If you wish to become a member on Sunday, please contact Karen Ruedi Crowell, 715-373-2524, dancingmoon01@centurytel.net.

Religious Education for 2011-2012

All youth are welcome to participate in our Religious Education (RE) programs.

K-3 Picture Book World Religions, which uses children's books to teach about world religions.

Middle School "What Do You Stand For?" Discusses character traits with activities and discussions.

High School The older kids are ready to put their beliefs into action so we will focus on service projects of their choosing. This is very youth directed. For more information on Religious Education please contact Beth Reed at 715-682-8385, 4lipreeds@centurylink.net or Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872 ruth@oppedahl.com.



Women's CUUF Monthly Lunch at Coco's

The third Wednesday of each month UU women are meeting for lunch at Coco's in Washburn. This month we will meet on **March 21st at noon**. Feel free to call Jan if you have questions, (715) 373-1141.

CUUF Website & Facebook page: Check them out....

The CUUF website is in the process of being updated – it will soon be unveiled. It will reside at the same location, URL <http://www.chequamegonuuuf.org/>, but will have a new look. We are now a presence on Facebook... <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chequamegon-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship/185720978179>. Since it is a fan page, you will have to "like" it to follow it.

We still have Podcasts...Thanks Travis!

Directly through itunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/chequamegon-unitarian-universalist/id392546299>

Or, through our website: <https://sites.google.com/a/chequamegonuuuf.org/frontpage/home/service-podcasts>

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

March 4th Patty Dufek
March 18th Perrine; Brew; Calhan; Kent/Kathy Tenney
April 8th Granger; Quinlan; Bergeruhd-Quamme; D/A Christensen
April 22nd Bavluka; Kehn; Perkins; Quinlan

If you can't serve when scheduled, please call Patty to alert her. If you want to bring something but are not on the schedule, feel free to contribute - you don't have to let anyone know. Please call Patty Dufek if you have questions: (715) 682-9015 or (715) 292-1676

Time to start thinking of our annual GARAGE SALE

Please save your terrific items for the May sale and see me if you can help in any way.
birgithwolff@yahoo.com

Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift to CUUF?

There are a variety of ways to make planned gifts or bequeaths to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please consider designating a specific sum or percentage of your estate or life insurance policy to CUUF. Or, perhaps you are able to offer a planned gift while you are living. Contributions may be set aside for specific purposes, with recognition or anonymously. Please discuss any ideas you may have with a board member.

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. Mother Teresa

Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872.

In Our Community:

First Friday Dance

The first Friday dance is March 2 at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland College campus. Kids dances start at 7 and adult dancing is at 8. All dances are taught and no experience is necessary. The dances include circle mixers, square dances, contra dances and some waltzes. Live music is by the Omega Threes (Tom Draughon, Lisa McGinley, and Bentley Brehm) with Donn Christensen calling. This is a free event sponsored by the Northland College Student Association.

The Dean's List Big Band Orchestra Presented by the *Ashland Chamber Music Society*
Relive the driving sounds of the Big Band Era with this 18-piece ensemble. The Dean's List keeps alive both the big band and swing styles of music, featuring musicians from the Northern Wisconsin area. The **Ashland High School Jazz Combo** will perform at 7:30, followed by the Big Band.

Saturday, March 3, 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church, 214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland. Parking available in adjacent Civic Center lot. **All students are FREE** for ACMS programs. General Admission is \$15, with tickets available at the door.

Faith In Action Fights Cabin Fever

Even a mild winter can create challenges for many seniors citizens, keeping them homebound more than usual. Faith In Action-Ashland County works to connect seniors with caring volunteers from their community who can provide a variety of services. These volunteers often bring a bit of sunshine into a long winter week. Volunteers can provide a friendly visit and a game of cards, assist with basic household chores, take on minor fix-it jobs, do lamp repair, help with shopping, provide respite, or assist with snow removal. Pets N' Pals volunteers can visit a senior with a trained therapy dog. Arts and Sports Buddies can take seniors out to area events. Faith In Action depends on volunteers from each community to fill the local requests. For more information about becoming a volunteer, receiving volunteer services, or making a donation call Ashland County Aging Unit 682-4414 x3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Washburn

Chapter If anyone has any questions, please contact Mary Wichita (mary.wichita@yahoo.com; 715-765-4132). Meetings are on the fourth Tues of the month on the 3rd floor - Washburn Cultural Center.

March 27, 7 pm, “*Seeing the Margin & The Weight of a Rock*” at the Washburn Cultural Center. Join PFLAG board members Katrina Werchowski and Heather Rickerl as they raise awareness of the earliest signs of mental health concerns and behavior changes that might manifest in anyone in a marginalized population. *Sponsored by Book Across the Bay and Bill’s Collision Center.*

UU Prairie Star District and UUA National:

PSD Announcements are listed. For more detailed information, visit the PSD website: www.psdoua.org.

Note: Those who receive this newsletter via email have access to the embedded links – click the red items.

- Registration is open for **Annual Conference 2012** (**April 13-15** in Bloomington, Minnesota).
- Registration is open for a series of **online workshops** for **small congregations** on Saturday mornings in March, April, and May.
- Save the date for **MidWest Leadership School** (MWLS), a week-long intense program that includes leadership, group and system dynamics, UU history and theology, and elements of worship. It will take place **July 15-21, 2012** in Beloit, Wisconsin. *There is also a Youth Leadership School for ages 14-18 at the same time and place.*
- Registration is open for **Committee on Ministry Online Workshop** which will be March 15, 2012.
- Registration is open for **Worship for All Ages Renaissance Module** taking place May 10-12, 2012 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- See the **Positions Open** page for notices from several congregations.
- Registration is open for a **series of webinars** for **Youth Advisors** taking place once a month from January to April. Sign up for one or more.
- In November 2011, PSD Board unanimously voted to work collaboratively with the Boards of the Central Midwest District and Heartland District to **create a regional governance entity** to replace the three individual districts. Read a **letter from PSD President Kathy Burek** about this decision.
- **UUA General Assembly June 20-24, 2012** in Phoenix, Arizona will be a different GA - a Justice GA. Download **this flier** for ideas on how to start preparing now.

CUUF and local community Calendar

March 2	First Friday Dance - Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Ashland
March 3	The Dean's List Big Band Orchestra - 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church
March 4	Sun , Fellowship Service and New Member Welcome Speaker: David Saetre
March 18	Sun , Fellowship Service – Speaker: Alicia Juskewycz
March 21	Women’s Lunch at Coco’s in Washburn, at noon
March 27	PFLAG 7pm at the Washburn Cultural Center
April 8	Sun , Fellowship Service Speaker: David Saetre
April 13-15	PSD Conference, “Lessons from War and Peace,” Bloomington, MN
April 22	Sun , Fellowship Service and ANNUAL MEETING/Potluck luncheon Please plan to stay for the potluck and attend the Annual Meeting
May 6	Sun , Fellowship Service All Music
May 20	Sun , Fellowship Service and Flower and Child Dedication ceremonies
June 10	Sun , Fellowship Picnic – Bring a dish to pass and an instrument to play (optional)
June 20-24	UU National General Assembly, Phoenix, AZ “Justice” (for immigrant communities)
July 15-21	MN Leadership School

Camps: Camp Star Trail: July 29-Aug 3, Omaha, NE – youth, adult and combined programs

<http://www.psdoua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail>

Camp UniStar – weeklong programs throughout the summer in MN

<http://www.psdoua.org/Camps/CampUniStar>

Fellowship service dates and descriptions are in bold.

MISSION STATEMENT - This fellowship exists to serve the human needs of its members and friends, to stimulate individual development of a positive and ethical philosophy of life, and to provide a common shelter for everyone's personal growth. -- Founded, February 22, 1998

*** Please note the change in June's phone number and Erin's phone number ***

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The exercise of power is determined by thousands of interactions between the world of the powerful and that of the powerless, all the more so because these worlds are never divided by a sharp line: everyone has a small part of himself in both.

Vaclav Havel

People who enjoy meetings should not be in charge of anything.

Thomas Sowell